Drugs out of price control

*198. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a steep hike in the prices of life saving drugs has been noticed due to Government's position of removing 44 drugs from the diluted drug price list, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, the names of drugs and range of increase noticed in the life saving drugs during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have assessed the impact caused by this hike in prices;, and

(d) if so, what is the proposal of Government to control the price hike?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 containing a list of drugs under price control has not been pruned and is still in force. No steep hike in the prices of scheduled drugs has come to the notice of Government.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Migration of agriculturists from rural to Urban areas

*199. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent massive migration of agriculturists from rural to urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Rozgar Yojana, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The "Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana" (SGRY) announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day address of the year 2001 was launched on September 25,2001 by merging the on-going Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). Under the scheme, 50 lakh tonnes of food grains (worth Rs. 5000 crores) are to be provided every year

to the States / U.Ts. free of cost. The balance of Rs. 5,000 crores is to be utilized to meet the cash component for wages and material costs. The programme is self targeting in nature and available for the rural poor who are in need of wage employment. Priority is accorded to the poorest amongst the poor, women, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and parents of child labour withdrawn from hazardous occupations.

The Government is also implementing various schemes in different sectors including agriculture, agro based industries, small and village industries, sericulture, apiculture etc. along with other infrastructure and social development sectors which are aimed at generating income and employment in rural areas so as to accelerate the pace of rural development and discourage migration of agriculturists and labour from rural to urban areas.

Cultivation area of foodgrains

*200. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase or decrease in area under cultivation of major foodgrains, between 1990 and 2000, crop-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the reasons for fall in area under cultivation under certain crops in certain States; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to bring uncultivated land into productive use?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The State-wise details of changes in areas under cultivation of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses between the years 1990-91 and 2000-01 are given in the Statement *(See below):*

(b) From the Annex it can be seen that at All India level there is an increase in area under wheat and rice, while there is a decline in area under coarse cereals and pulses between the trienniums ending 1990-91 and 2000-01. One major reason for increase in area at All India level under rice & wheat is the relative profitability of these crops. Higher yields for these crops have helped the country to meet the challenge of food security. Some area from coarse cereals has also shifted to the production of oilseeds in certain States. Besides, area under fruits and vegetables has also increased. This patern is largely reflected in the State-wise position also though with certain minor exceptions arising due to agro